

Chesterfield Fire and EMS

Fire and Life Safety Division - Fire Marshal's Office

P.O. Box 40 Chesterfield, VA 23832 Phone (804) 748-1426 Fax (804) 768-8766



OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS FOR LAND CLEARING/ PROPERTY MAINTENANCE – Ninety (90) Day Permit

1. A **“written permit”** must be obtained from the Chesterfield Fire & EMS, Fire and Life Safety Division. Application for permit shall include: \$400.00 fee for permit, completed permit application, site plan of burn site, certificate of liability insurance coverage for party performing burn. The permit holder must maintain liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 general liability coverage at all times while burning is taking place.
2. **Applications shall be submitted at least 15 days before the desired burn.**
3. Permitted open burning does not exempt or excuse a person from the consequence, damages or injuries which may result from such conduct, nor does it excuse or exempt any person from complying with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and orders of the federal government, Commonwealth of Virginia and/or Chesterfield County.
4. **Open burning is prohibited during the months of June, July and August.**
5. Burning of the following is prohibited:
 - a. Toxic or hazardous materials, or containers for such materials
 - b. Rubber tires, asphaltic material, crankcase oil, impregnated wood, or similar materials.
 - c. Paper, used lumber, or trade waste
 - d. Buildings and/or demolition material
6. The burning shall take place on the site from which the debris waste was generated. All reasonable effort shall be made to minimize the amount of material that is burned, with the number and size (25 feet in width by 25 feet in length by 15 feet in height) of the debris piles approved by Chesterfield Fire & EMS, Fire and Life Safety Division.
7. Permitted fires shall be constantly attended by a competent person until they are extinguished and conducted to ensure the best possible combustion with a minimum of smoke and fly ash being produced. The operator and equipment to control and/or extinguish the fire(s) shall be within 1000 feet of the pile at all times.
8. Permits will be valid for 90 calendar days from the date of issue (except if 90 days from date of issuance falls in the months of June, July or August). A one-time 30-day extension may be requested prior to the expiration of the permit. Once a permit **has expired**, it will be necessary to **submit a new application and pay another permit fee**. In either case, a re-inspection of the site may be required.
9. Fires shall be at least 50 feet from any building and/or structure and at least 500 feet from any occupied building, unless the occupants have given prior **written** permission.
10. A copy of the permit, site plan, guidelines, and all applicable conditions shall be kept at the burn site.
11. The Virginia Division of Forestry requires that any open burning, from February 15, through April 30, of each year, within 300 feet of woodland, brush land, or field containing dry grass or other combustible material leading to woodland, be done between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.